

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00996 01 OF 02 241128Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 /083 W
-----015037 241152Z /20
R 241040Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1176
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0996

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, NP
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF B. P. KOIRALA

REF: A) KATHMANDU 0965, B) KATHMANDU 0945, C) KATHMANDU
0943, D) KATHMANDU 0920, E) KATHMANDU 0908, F) KATHMANDU 0899

1. REFTELS HAVE DESCRIBED DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR
CONVERNING B.P. KOIRALA'S TRIAL AND RELEASE FROM
DETENTION. THIS MESSAGE SEEKS TO REPORT CHRONOLOGICALLY
VARIOUS STEPS I HAVE TAKEN SINCE MY DEPARTURE FROM
WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS ON FEBRUARY 10 TO DEAL WITH
THIS CASE AND TO CLARIFY B.P.'S STATUS AND FUTURE.

2. ON FEBRUARY 14 I MET THOMAS MANTON
AT HIS REQUEST, AT ASIA SOCIETY IN
NEW YORK. MANTON IS FRIEND OF B.P., VISITED
KATHMNADU LAST FALL, AND HAS BEEN ONE OF LEADERS
OF COMPAIGN IN U.S. TO EFFECT B.P.'S RLEEASE FROM
JAIL. MANTON TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
B.P.'S LAWYERS WHO HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN
PROPOSITION THAT PROMINENT AMERICAN ATTORNEY
PROCEED TO NEPAL TO ASSIST IN B.P.'S LEGAL
DEFENSE. MANTON SAID THAT RAMSEY CLARK WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KATHMA 00996 01 OF 02 241128Z

BE READY TO GO TO KATHMANDU AT MOMENT'S NOTICE.
ANOTHER POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE FORMER SENATOR
FULBRIGHT. MANTON WANTED MY REACTION TO
THIS PROPOSAL. I TOLD MANTON THAT AS SOON
AS I GOT BACK TO KATHMANDU I WOULD EXPLORE MATTER
DISCREETLY WITH B.P.'S LAWYERS AND WITH A FEW
PROMINENT NEPALESE IN WHOM I HAD CONFIDENCE AND

WHOSE JUDGMENT I VALUED TO DETERMINE WHETHER PRESENCE OF AMERICAN LAWYER AT TRIAL WOULD BE HELPFUL. BASIC QUESTION WAS WHETHER SUCH STEP WOULD HURT OR HELP B.P.'S CAUSE AND TO THAT END ONE HAD TO CONSIDER BOTH JUDICIAL AND OFFICIAL NEPALESE REACTION. I TOLD MANTON I WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THESE SOUNDINGS.

3. SHORTLY AFTER SEEING MANTON, I MET WITH DR. NORMAL BRACHFELD AT NEW YORK HOSPITAL, ALSO AT HIS REQUEST. ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS BRACHFELD HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT B.P.'S HEALTH AND REPORTS OF HIS DETERIORATING PHYSICAL CONDITION. I TOLD BRACHFELD I WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE BACK WITH ME WHATEVER MEDICAL OPINION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SUBJECT BRACHFELD CARED TO PUT ON PAPER TO PASS TO THE PALACE SO THAT IT WOULD HAVE BENEFIT OF MEDICAL OPINION OF PROMINENT AMERICAN PHYSICIAN WHO HAD TAKEN CARE OF B.P. IN NEW YORK LAST SUMMER. BRACHFELD HAD DRAFT OF SUCH A STATEMENT READY BUT AFTER DISCUSSIONS HE AGREED TO AMEND LANGUAGE SLIGHTLY AND SAID HE WOULD MAIL STATEMENT TO ME IN KATHMANDU.

4. AS REPORTED IN SEPTEL, PRIME MINISTER ON FEBRUARY 22 GAVE ME ADVANCE NOTICE OF HMG INTENTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KATHMA 00996 01 OF 02 241128Z

TO RELEASE B.P. WHAT WAS NOT CLEAR AT THAT MEETING WAS HMG PLANS TO RELEASE B.P. WITHIN 24 HOURS. IT WAS MY IMPRESSION FROM PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE AFTER CONCLUSION OF TRIAL CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. AS REPORTED KATHMANDU 0943, HMG TOOK THIS ACTION EARLY MORNING FEBRUARY 23.

5. ON FEBRUARY 23 I SPENT DAY WITH PRIME MINISTER ON HELICOPTER TOUR OF VARIOUS AID-SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN EASTERN NEPAL. SCHEDULE WAS CROWDED BUT AT BRIEF QUIET SPELL DURING LUNCH, PRIME MINISTER TOLD ME THAT B.P. HAD BEEN RELEASED ON BAIL FOR HUMANITARIAN AND HEALTH REASONS. THERE WAS NO TIME LIMIT AND B.P. WAS FREE TO LEAVE COUNTRY AT ANY TIME AND GO ANYWHERE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00996 02 OF 02 241137Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 /083 W
-----015165 241155Z /20

R 241040Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1177
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0996

PRIME MINISTER ASSUMED B.P. MIGHT HAVE PRELIMINARYO
MEDICAL CHECK IN INDIA BUT WOULD PRESUMABLY PROCEED
IN NEAR FUTURE TO US FOR FURTHER OBSERVATION AND POSSIBLE
SURGERY. I TRIED SEVERAL TIMES TO PIN DOWN PRIME MINISTER ON
TIMING OF HMG DECISION. WHY WAS IT TAKEN THIS WEEK AFTER TRIAL
HAD STARTED INSTEAD OF LAST WEEK OR NEXT WEEK?
PRIME MINISTER'S CONSISTENT ANSWER WAS THAT THIS WAS
RIGHT TIME FROM MEDICAL POINT OF VIEW. PRIME MINISTER
ADDED THAT B. P. OF COURSE WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO
RETURN TO COMPLETE TRIAL AGAINST HIM. COMMENT: IN MAKING
THIS STATEMENT, PRIME MINISTER WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT AWARE OF
EVENTS DESCRIBED IN KATHMANDU 0965, TAKING PLACE AT SAME
TIME AS OUR TRIP. END COMMENT.

6. UPON MY RETURN FROM HELICOPTER TRIP TO
KATHMANDU, AT APPROXIMATELY 1800 HOURS FEB 23,
I PHONED B. P. AT HIS RESIDENCE AND SPOKE TO
HIM BRIEFLY. I SAID I WAS CALLING HIM AS AN
OLD FRIEND TO WISH HIM WELL AND AN EARLY RECOVERY
AND OFFICIALLY TO INQUIRE WHETHER EMBASSY
COULD ASSIST IN ANY WAY TO FACILITATE HIS TRIP
TO U.S. WHERE I ASSUMED HE WOULD BE PROCEEDING.
B.P.'S VOICE WAS HOARSE AND FAINT BUT I
UNDERSTOOD HIM TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR CALL,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KATHMA 00996 02 OF 02 241137Z

TO SAY THAT HE WANTED TO TRAVEL TO US "AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE" AND THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING CABLE TO
NEW YORK DOCTORS SOON. COMMENT. BEFORE MAKING
THIS CALL I WAS INFORMED THAT INDIAN AMBASSADOR
MENON HAD PHONED B.P. EARLY FEBRUARY 23 TO EXPRESS

PLEASURE IN B.P.' RELEASE. AT RECEPTION LATER IN EVENING, MENON VIGOROUSLY DENIED HE HAD DONE ANY SUCH THING. THERE WAS CERTAIN RISK IN CALLING B.P. AS CONTACT WITH HIM COULD BE MISCONSTRUED BY GON. HOWEVER, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT SHOULD GON RAISE ANY QUESTION, I COULD RIGHTLY CLAIM THAT MY CALL WAS MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND BY DESIRE TO INQUIRE INTO HIS PLANS SINCE HE WAS PRESUMABLY HEADED FOR US. END COMMENT.

7. AT THIS POINT, B.P.'S STATUS AND HIS PLANS AND GON ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIM ARE SOMEWHAT MURKY. BEFORE LEAVING FOR MEDICAL CARE ABROAD, B.P. APPEARS INTENT ON SOME KIND OF UNDERSTANDING WITH KING ON HIS FUTURE STATUS. WE WILL BE REPORTING FURTHER AS EVENTS UNFOLD. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT BY RELEASING B.P., HMG HAS ABSOLVED ITSELF. OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR B.P.'S HEALTH.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: RECOMMEND THAT PERCIVAL IN NEA/INS CONTACT MANTON AND BRACHFELD IN NEW YORK, BRING THEM UP TO DATE ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND INFORM THEM THAT I PLAN NO FURTHER ACTION ON AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH BOTH OF THEM AS OUR PLANS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. HECK
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KATHMA 00996 02 OF 02 241137Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KATHMA00996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0067
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780218/aaaaaolo.tel
Line Count: 204
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3dd238d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KATHMANDU 965, 78 KATHMANDU 945, 78 KATHMANDU 8
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3490253
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF B. P. KOIRALA
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, NP, (KOIRALA, B P)
To: STATE NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3dd238d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014